

Arts in the Parks

Chain O' Lakes State Park Property Profile

Website: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2987.htm>

Key Messages/Stories:

- Chain O' Lakes State Park was established in June of 1960.
- Cultural History of the Area- Miami Indians once inhabited the park. An Indian village with 30 bark wigwams once settled here. European pioneers settled in the area – William Bowen was one of those pioneers and he settled on Bowen Lake, which was named after him. Later in 1915, a one-room Schoolhouse called the Stanley Schoolhouse was constructed. The school was in use until 1954.
- Natural beauty – Chain O' Lakes has 15 miles of forested trails and boasts 9 connecting lakes. The 732-acre Glacial Esker Nature Preserve was dedicated in 2012 and is considered the best [geological esker](#) example in the state.

Top Five Things to Do:

- Visit the Reconstructed Stanley Schoolhouse
- Hike over 15 miles of trails and visit the Glacial Esker Nature Preserve
- Boat Rental – canoes, row boats, kayaks, paddleboats, nu-canoes
- Swimming beach and picnic areas
- Visit the Nature Center

Lodging: 18 Family Housekeeping Cabins, 413 Campsites (electric, non-electric & primitive sites); Rally Camp, Youth Tent Camp

General visitor profile: campers (nightly, weekends or weekly); day-users for swimming, picnics, hikers, shelter rentals; visiting the nature center or schoolhouse; school groups in spring & summer; scouts and other groups for volunteer service; renters in the family cabins.

Potential arts venues:

- Outdoor Program Area (Nature Center)
Seating for 50 (wood benches)
- Various shelter houses:
 - Glacier Ridge Shelter- Electricity, Covered, Open Air, Seating for 125
 - Sunny Ridge Shelter- Electricity, Covered, Open Air, Seating for 60
 - Shady Ridge Shelter- Electricity, Covered, Open Air, Seating for 75
- Schoolhouse:
 - Electricity
 - Lighting
 - Air Conditioning
 - Seating for 50

Visitation in FY2014: 280,000



Nearby Communities: Albion, Kendallville, Columbia City, Fort Wayne, Auburn, Avilla

Please email questions to Artsintheparks@dnr.IN.gov

